



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz

We are affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Opinions expressed or events described in this newsletter might not actually represent Club policy - if they do it's probably pure coincidence.

Vol. 76

October 2007

No. 6

President	Richard Wills	389-8671	Club Captain	Jim Western	376-5191
Vice President	Andrew Turton	332-8275	Trip Organiser(day)	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Lisa Glading	389-1737	(weekend)	Andrew Turton	332-8275
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981-7929
Editor	Alastair Brown	343-5111	Gear Custodian	Jim Western	376-5191
Social Convener	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members	Susan Pearson	337-4914

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. Membership rates per year are \$35 member, \$55 couple, \$18 junior or associate.

Equipment Hire: The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Jim Western 376-5191. Note: Club gear assigned to you is your responsibility; please take care of it. Please make sure you put tents inside your pack. Tents attached to the outside of your pack can be easily punctured when bush bashing or even lost. This may result in serious damage to your bank account! Please air and dry tents after taking them on a trip even if they are not used, and report any damage to the gear custodian.

Rates:	Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, crampons		\$4/weekend
harnesses, snow shovel		
Large/small weekend packs		\$2/weekend
Mountain radio		\$30/weekend
		\$40/week.

Our Club Hut: In the Arthur's Pass Township has the comforts of home but with the mountains at the back door. – Even better now with real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!). A great place for a few days away; take your usual gear and a pillowcase. Please book before leaving town to ensure there is a bunk available. For keys and bookings, phone Dave Watson 981 7929; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352 5329; or if they're both away, Andrew Wrapson 980 6006. Hut fees are \$8 member, \$8 member's partner, \$15 non-member, \$4 kids under 12. If you find any problems or maintenance required, please tell Dave.

Social Scene: We meet on Thursdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge), Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). A variety of social functions are organised, the atmosphere informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Alan Ross 384-6425 or email alan.d.ross@orica.com. Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm *sharp*.

Trips: Unless otherwise stated, day trips depart at 8:00 am and weekend trips depart at 7:00 pm on Fridays, from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street). If you aren't taking your car on the trip, park on one of the nearby side streets, otherwise it may be wheel clamped or towed. If you are taking your car please refuel at Shell Carlton, as they are kind enough to hold our trip lists. Every trip gives an indication of transport costs per person. Please bring it in cash to help the leader divvy up at the end. If you have comments or suggestions for trips, please contact the appropriate trip organiser (listed at top of the page). New or prospective members intending to go on any trip must sign up at club night or contact the trip leader in advance.

Leaders: Please ask for the trip list box (disguised as a shiny red 'Stanley' toolbox) and post the trip list into the locked box. If anyone turns up after this, the service station has a key to open the box. Spare key holders are listed on the box.

Notices

Email: The club operates a moderated email list, whose address is members@ctc.org.nz. This list is used to send out the newsletter, occasional tramping related messages and other invites, and from time to time a complete list of the email addresses of CTC members. Messages intended for the list, and requests to join or leave the list should be sent to the above email address. Note that the moderator will check as to the appropriateness of all messages.

CTC Stickers: The club has Christchurch Tramping Club stickers for members to stick in hut books when they visit. Please contact the secretary at secretary@ctc.org.nz.

Photos: We now have photos on the web page to accompany trip reports. Please email photos to webmaster@ctc.org.nz.

Membership Database: If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, email Susan Pearson susan@toniq.co.nz or phone 337 4914.

Access Database: If you know of any new information that concerns obtaining access to the properties we tramp on (e.g. change of owner or phone number), please call Ian Dunn 343 2155 or email ian.dunn@paradise.net.nz.

Club Hut: When using the Club Hut, please be careful when changing the taps when arriving and leaving. The consequences of cocking this up (no pun intended) could be severe, so please read the instructions carefully.

Committee: The Committee meets from 7.30 pm on the second Monday of every month except January. The venue changes between committee members' homes. Club members may attend meetings to discuss matters. Contact the Secretary (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 389 1737).

Crampon Retention: Just a wee reminder that stuff attached to the side of your pack is liable to come off, if not securely attached, especially when bush bashing. Many CTC members have bitter memories of having lost valuable stuff in such a way (editor included). Remember that crampon patches are not necessarily to be trusted, and anything tied on needs at least one backup connection point in case of failure.

Captain Custodians Corner: Club Gear for Emergencies

Personal Locator Beacons & Mountain Radio: The club now has an extra four personal locator beacons, which were purchased with the aid of a community grant. These are the latest 406MHz type, which are more accurate when locating and identifying who they belong to. With a total of six now in our stock, and a mountain radio on permanent loan, the club will be encouraging that these are used on all weekend trips and any day trips as deemed necessary. Please use them, and of course, look after them.

First Aid Kits: We expect everyone on a trip to carry their own kit. If leading a trip, and you want to be sure, we do have a couple of loan kits for back up. These are ideal for extended trips, or if you are leading trips with a lot of new people who may not be carrying enough first aid supplies. There are some good low priced personal tramping kits available about town. I found General Medical Supplies at 167 Waltham Road offer very reasonably priced kits, and unlike some suppliers, will stock all component parts, for separate sale, including replacement bags.

Torches: Please always carry one of these; you never know if you will end up walking in the dark. If you don't have a torch the above two items may be introduced in quick succession, prior to discovering the relationship between the following; dark, bluff, gravity, motion and sudden deceleration!

Happy Tramping.

New Members: Please welcome new members : Julie King, Darian Keane and David Rován.

Classifieds

Classified Ads: Are available to CTC members at no charge.

External Events of interest

Wanganui Tramping Club - Mangaturuturu Hut 50th Anniversary: The Wanganui Tramping Club is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Mangaturuturu Hut. Planned Festivities are a trip into the hut on Saturday 22 March 2008 and a celebratory Dinner on Sunday 23 March 2008. Please contact Russel Donaldson, 6 Stafford St, Wanganui 4501, 06 344 2275, 027 5149183, russeld@clear.net.nz.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 27 September

Club Night

Newsletter folding night: + some video footage from the 75th anniversary. If you missed this it will be of interest. If you were there on the day, you might be in the show.

Weekend 29-30 September

Leader: Peter Eman 337-3003

Gizeh Col: Another one of the classic enjoyable tramps the club has run in the Arthur's Pass area involves a short re-acquaintance with the Waimak up to Anti Crow Steam and crossing over the Black Range into the Avoca Valley. The Col passes through some neat country with peaks Greenlaw, Gizeh, Harper providing good backdrops, if Peter has made the requisite sacrifices to Huey. Bound to be snow by then, with the usual requirements for ice axe and crampons advisable, contact the leader.

Grade: ModHard
Closed: 20 Sep
Map: K34
Approx: \$35

Sunday 30 September CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR TODAY!! Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006

Woolshed Hill: Woolshed Hill (1429m) stands above the Hawdon, off the Mt White Road. There will be about 820m of ascent, mostly through beech, following a track up the crest of a ridge and then the tussocky top. The first 300m or so up is reasonably steep. Views from the top down into the Waimakariri/Hawdon confluence and, on the other side, the Andrews.

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closed: 27 Sep
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Sunday 30 September CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR TODAY!! Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

Woolshed Hill and Ridge: Go with the Easy/Moderate trip above onto Woolshed Hill (1429m, above the Hawdon) and then explore along the undulating ridge top. Descent and return routes will be decided by the leader on the day according to the inclinations of the group and the dictates of the weather.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 27 Sep
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Thursday 4 October

Club Night

Ed Hillary: Video 3 of the extraordinary life of Ed Hillary. Contents are the 1st motorised journey to the South Pole (causing some stress in the process). The search for the Yeti in Nepal and his jet boat trip from the mouth of the Ganges to headwaters high in the Himalayas. What a man!

Saturday 6 October

Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111

Mt Potts: Take your choice of literary connections for this stunning area - Samuel Butler's Erewhon or Lord of the Rings. Mt Potts is an impressive peak (2184m) above the Havelock/Clyde confluence. It's a long day and there may be snow and ice. A good workout guaranteed, and hope for a clear day so that we can enjoy the magnificent views. Bring ice axe and crampons.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 4 Oct
Map: J35 J36
Approx: \$25

Weekend 6-7 October

Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275

Lucretia - Lewis Tops - Rough Creek: A good moderate tramp in the Lewis Pass area. Half on track but half off track, this trip starts on the Nina valley track before turning off into the Lucretia valley and climbing to the tops. An ice axe may be needed for this section. Saturday night will be on the tops by the Brass Monkey Biv. Sunday will be much shorter, following the tops to meet the Lake Christobel - Rough Creek track which is then followed back to the road. Good views are gained from the tops above the lake. A soak in the hot pools is also a possibility if time permits.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 27 Sep
Map: M31
Approx: \$35

Weekend 6-7 October	Leader: Jonathan Carr 351-1574
Sefton Biv: Trip to a great old style basic four bunk that is perched half way up the slopes below Mt Footstool with great views across to the south face of Mt Sefton. This is not just a climbing area but is also a neat place to visit. There is no charge to stay in the hut, but dependent on other park users and could be combined with other trips in the area that may be more moderate. Contact the trip leader. Ice axe, crampons and snow skills are required for trips into this area.	Grade: Hard Closes: 27 Sep Map: H36 Approx: \$50
Sunday 7 October	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
Bealey Spur to the Hut: Start above the baches at Bealey Spur and climb through beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut, at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. Bring warm clothing, and a walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about a 450m climb and the round trip is about 10km.	Grade: Easy Closes: 4 Oct Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Sunday 7 October	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
The Pyramid: An adventurous moderate trip with all the prerequisites for a classic CTC tramp - wet feet, a little scrambling around the top, and a possible scree descent. The Pyramid (1608m) is a sustained steep climb on an old ridge track overlooking Hawdon and Sudden valley confluence. Once out of the bush and onto the rocky ridge you'll have a commanding view of Waimakariri Basin and surrounding peaks. There are a couple of descent options - a scree chute to Sudden Valley and then the Sudden Valley track down the stream and through the gorge, or through the bush into the Hawdon Valley.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 4 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Thursday 11 October	Club Night
Dry valleys of Antarctica: Donald Reid will take us to the dry valleys of Antarctica. He has described this area the size of Canterbury as one of the most unusual places on the planet. Its actually unknown why its free of snow and ice. Donald was a field leader to this site so will be very interesting.	
Saturday 13 October	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Hinewai: Hinewai is a beautiful bird and bush reserve on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula, accessed from the Summit Road above Akaroa. The reserve has a wide range of natives including some original remnant beech and the newer plantings which are really getting established now. Your leader will be able to tell you all about them! Listen to the bird song as you follow the well established track down to Otanerito bay and then loop back up to the car park again.	Grade: Easy Closes: 11 Oct Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$15
Weekend 13-14 October	Leader: Jeff Hall 332-9251
Mt Faraday: Mt Faraday home to the Giant Mole or Faraday Weta and the occasional lost trumper. This area of the northern Paparoa Ranges is a bit of an exploration trip, as the last club trip into this area has been a while ago, so keen to repeat. Travel over on Friday night with tenting on the tops above bush line and hopefully not too much snow about. If weather limits the tops options there are still neat exploration options in this part of the Northern Paparoas. Contact trip leader as more moderate options are possible.	Grade: Hard Closes: 4 Oct Map: K30 Approx: \$45

Sunday 14 October (Note early start 7am)	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
Maukuratawhai: Maukuratawhai (sometimes irreverently called Mt Muckaroundawhile to help you remember the name) is an interesting little 1615m peak just across the Clarence River from where you descend from Jacks Pass. We will climb up the long SW ridge (about 800m height gain) and if time and conditions permit we will traverse around to Pt 1575 and descend its S ridge to circle back to the starting point. You will need crampons and ice axe and warm footwear including gaiters. The trip starts with a cold ford of the Clarence so bring some spare sneakers so you can change into dry boots on the other side. Note early start - 7am at the Shell garage.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Oct Map: N31 N32 Approx: \$30

Thursday 18 October	Club Night
Arm Chair Emergencies - How to Get Lost, Over Due, or Injured With Style: Now that the club has four new personal locator beacons, we shall talk about the pro's and cons of the new models verses the old ones, how they work, and why a mountain radio still has its advantages. We will also talk about what happens if search and rescue are called out, and give you some useful ideas as to how to help yourself get found before and during a trip that involves assistance. We will run the evening with a combination of theoretical, practical subjects, in an informative and potentially life saving way. Please turn up and feel free to add any ideas or experiences that you may have. There will be a short quiz at the end, and the prize will be something to behold. Be there to find out what it is!	

Saturday 20 October	Leader: Bev Clark 326-6544
Evans Pass and the Pioneer Womens Monument: This trip covers several of the sites of special interest to historic Christchurch. We'll start at Evans Pass, from the road, originally which was completed in 1857, and which provided the main route between Christchurch and Lyttelton until the railway tunnel was completed in 1867. From the Pass we'll work along the summit road to the Pioneer Womens Monument at the top of the Bridle Track above Lyttelton. Originally dedicated to the pioneer families of Christchurch, the second plaque on the monument reads "Centennial Memorial to the pioneer women of Canterbury" and was unveiled by the granddaughter of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, founder of the New Zealand Company and Canterbury Association. From the Monument we'll return to Evans Pass via the track around the Mt Pleasant bluffs. This easy tramp will have about 200m of ascent/descent and take you through some of the lovely Summit Road reserves - and we'll probably have time for an ice cream stop in Sumner on the way home as well - what more could you need for some gentle Labour Weekend exercise?	Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Oct Map: N36 M36 Approx: \$10

Long Weekend 20-22 October	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
Cameron Glaciers: An expedition for alpine adventurers who have done the Intermediate Snowcraft Course this year or in seasons past. Tramp up the scenic Cameron Valley to the ragged jagged lofty peaks of the Arrowsmith Range. Walk on a real alpine glacier and learn how to predict the presence of crevasses when they are covered by snow and how to navigate around them. Revise glacier rescue techniques in a real crevasse and then practise alpine snow skills while climbing a couple of the easier peaks in the range. Then enjoy the spectacular views.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Oct Map: J35 Approx: \$40

Long Weekend 20-22 October	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
Glacier Ski Touring: A final ski trip for the year. The plan is to fly into a high hut (Murchison, Centennial, or Baron Saddle) where will depend on the weather forecast . We will then do some late season ski touring in the high mountains. With more stable weather and snow conditions and the time of the year of the highest snow accumulations this is the best time to ski in these areas (we hope). All necessary ski touring and mountain equipment will be needed. No late entries will be considered as there is a lot of organizing to be done. A bad forcast could mean a change of plans however so we need to be flexible.	Grade: Ski Closes: 11 Oct Map: I35 I36 H36 Approx: Lots (flying involved)

Long Weekend 20-22 October	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
Judges Creek: Travel up the Rainbow road in behind Hanmer Springs most likely on the Friday night. There are various accommodation options from the road with DOC huts accessible past Rainbow Saddle. Heading up Judges Creek on the Saturday there are various circuits either over into the Severn and Branch Rivers or Lees or Coldwater Creeks. Check with trip leader or check out the CTC web trip report from June 2003 for an overview of one of the circuits in this great area.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Oct Map: N30 Approx: \$45
Long Weekend 20-22 October	Leader: Malcolm Carr 960-5281
West Coast Glaciers Base camp: A chance to visit one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Walks in this area vary from hard climbs to the tops to easy wanders along the beach, but they all can have wonderful views. Come and join Malcom in this social long weekend. Accommodation to be determined.	Grade: Easy/All Closes: 11 Oct Map: H35 Approx: \$50+Accom
Sunday 21 October	Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Thirteen Mile Bush, Benmore tops: Another Labour weekend day tramp option, if you just can't get away for a long trip. . . We'll leave the cars at Benmore station and walk up Thirteen Mile Stream and then up through Thirteen Mile Bush, past the dinky little Benmore Hut (morning tea?) and then up through more bush and out onto the Benmore Tops. There's no track on the map but there is on the ground. If everyone's keen we can keep going to Benmore itself (1656m, which would make the height gain around 1200m). There may be a loop option along the tops, depending on what permission we get from Benmore Station.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 Oct Map: K35 L35 Approx: \$25
Thursday 25 October	Club Night
Newsletter folding and Trampwise: How good are your mapreading skills? The Trampwise session will be in a quiz format to 'test' your skills and promote discussion. A rumour has it that a useful prize might be awarded to the winner.	
Saturday 27 October	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
Mount Oxford from Coopers Creek: A classic tramp in the Canterbury foothills. Start from Coopers Creek and walk past the old hostel (now owned by the Scout Association) that the Club helped to build many many years ago, and up through native bush to the tussocky open tops to the trig on Mount Oxford (1364m, about 1000m height gain). On the return we have the option of making a longer day of it by doing a loop down a different spur and back past the Ryde Falls track. Great views over Canterbury plains, Torlesse Range and Waimakariri Gorge area.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 Oct Map: L34 Approx: \$15
Weekend 27-28 October	Leader: Sarah Hardie 332-8275
Croesus Hut Family trip: Alongside the Moderate trip Peter is leading over the tops from the Moonlight, Sarah will lead this family trip into the Croesus Hut. A formed track with a steady climb up to the hut makes this a good trip for families. Depending on the group some may continue over to the coast on the Sunday.	Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Oct Map: K31 Approx: \$40
Weekend 27-28 October	Leader: Peter Eman 337-3003
Moonlight - Croesus: A great moderate trip over the tops in the Southern part of the Paparoa range on the West Coast. There are good tracks up both the Moonlight and the Croesus but the section over the tops is a marked route only. Great views can be got down to the coast, back towards the Alps and on a clear day all the way south to Mt Cook. As a added bonus there is lots of old mining equipment to explore. The plan is to camp on the tops on Saturday night (weather permitting) All in all a good trip.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 Oct Map: K31 Approx: \$40

Sunday 28 October - check with leader for departure time and place	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
Mt Wilson and Mt Scott: Mt Wilson (2035m) and Mt Scott (2009m) are part of the Polar Range (yes, named after the Antarctic explorers) between Sudden Valley and the East Edwards. Ascent options are to go up the south-east ridge of Wilson from Sudden Valley via a steep gully upstream from Sudden Valley Biv, and then go on to Scott, or to go up (also steeply) from the head of Sudden Valley. The guidebooks say grade 1+ and we can expect there still to be snow and ice around. Please check with the leader about your skills for this trip and note that there may be an early start.	Grade: Hard Closes: 25 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Sunday 28 October	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Pudding Hill Stream: A varied loop in Mt Hutt forest, starting in Awa Awa Rata Reserve. From the Reserve we will walk up Scotts Saddle Track to the Ski-field road. This is a climb of about 600m over 5km through mixed forest and then on tussock tops with great views over the plains. From the road, we head west down through the forest on a track which may be overgrown to reach Pudding Hill Stream. We follow this downstream (untracked) for approx 6km to where a short track leads back to the reserve. Expect wet feet on the homeward part of this round trip of approx 12km.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 25 Oct Map: K36 K35 Approx: \$20
Thursday 1 November	Club Night
North West of Scotland: Our own Penny Coffey will take us to the North West of Scotland including the Orkneys Islands and Western Isles. Penny will show you that there is more to Scotland than the names you know (e.g. Isle of Skye) come along and see why.	
Saturday 3 November	Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655
Port Levy Saddle to Mount Sinclair: Enjoy an easy moderate day out on the Banks Peninsula. This tramp will run from the saddle above Port Levy along the tops to Mount Sinclair (841m), with views out over Pigeon Bay on one side and Akaroa on the other. Mount Sinclair was in fact named for the Sinclair family who settled in Pigeon Bay in the 1840s, before Christchurch was even founded. If people are keen and there are enough of us, we could do a car shuffle and be able to carry on through to Hilltop.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 1 Nov Map: N36 Approx: \$10
Weekend 3-4 November	Leader: Flo Roberts 980-7913
The Pinnacle: This trip is described by Sven in his guide book as spectacular with some superb tarn basins. The Pinnacle is in the area of the Victoria Range south west of Springs Junction and is a wilderness tramp with no tracks or huts so is not for unexperienced people. Stu and Flo have attempted this trip before but snow drove them back, but November should be kinder weather wise. Join them for what should be an excellent trip.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 25 Oct Map: L31 Approx: \$45
Sunday 4 November (Early start - 7 am at the Shell)	Leader: Richard Pickering 332-2171
Cass River, McLeod Stream, Black Range and Mt Misery: An exploration of part of the beautiful Black Range in the Cass Lagoon area. The trip starts by going up the Cass River from Grasmere and then up McLeod Stream and onto the Black Range tops around point 1911. From there we'll make our way along the tops to Mt Misery (1785m) and then down again to the cars. Someone must have had a bit of a negative experience in this area because Misery's neighbour, across Pylon Gully (route of that South Island icon the HVDC cable) is the equally dispiritedly-titled Mt Horrible. How could you not want to find out what they are really like? In fact, Mt Misery is a nice scrambly top with good views across the Waimakariri. This is a longish day trip with some 1300 - 1400m of ascent, hence the moderate hard rating. Note early start - 7 am at the Shell	Grade: ModHard Closes: 1 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$20

<p>Sunday 11 November</p> <p>Hamilton Peak to Mt Wall: Why stop at Hamilton Peak? A bit of a variation on the classic Craigieburn ascent, this tramp will climb via Camp Saddle to Hamilton Peak (1822m) above the Broken River ski field and then carry on with a scrambly traverse of the rocky ridge-top to Mt Wall (1874m). Descending from Mt Wall, we'll use one of the best shingle slides in the area to come right down almost to the ski field road close to the cars again. A more adventurous moderate trip with the usual impressive Craigieburn scenery and views.</p>	<p>Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344</p> <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$20</p>
<p>Sunday 11 November</p> <p>Pinchgut Hut: Try the Pinchgut track and visit Pinchgut Hut, in the Mt Thomas area. There is a crossing of the Okuku River right at the start of the track so you could wear an old pair of shoes for this and then change in to dry boots for the walk. 3-4 hours of gentle walking, mainly in beech, will get us to the hut in a streamside clearing where we will lunch before returning.</p>	<p>Leader: Brent Crammond 338-8171</p> <p>Grade: Easy Closes: 8 Nov Map: M34 Approx: \$20</p>
<p>Long Weekend 16-18 November</p> <p>Alpine Route Richmond Forest Park: The Alpine route is the name for a tops trip just above the bush line (and often in the bush) in the Richmond Ranges between Nelson and the Wairau valley. It is not particularly a alpine trip more a marked route on the tops so don't be put off. Snow is unlikely at Show weekend unless a late Southerly hits. There are regular huts along the Route and several entry and exit points so the final route will be determined when we see how many people there will be on the trip. A cross over trip or a round trip are both possible. This area can often get good weather when other areas are not so lucky.</p>	<p>Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275</p> <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Nov Map: N27 N28 O27 Approx: \$50</p>
<p>Long Weekend 16-18 November</p> <p>Mt Alexander: Mt Alexander (1958m) is a classic trampers' peak in the Lake Brunner region. It is usually done as a hard weekend trip and was cancelled last year due to weather so this is the ideal moderate option. The extra day allows more moderate trampers to enjoy this tramp. Leaving town on Thursday evening, we will spend the night at the club hut. On Friday we will climb (approx 1200m) to a high camp by some tarns on Friday. On Saturday we can climb to the summit, or just explore this area of weird rock outcrops, tussock land and basins. Potential for magnificent views to the familiar mountains of Arthur's Pass to the northern Paparoas and even Mt Cook. After a 2nd night in camp we head home.</p>	<p>Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914</p> <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Nov Map: K32 K33 Approx: \$40</p>
<p>Sunday 18 November</p> <p>Lake Emma, Mt Harper and Balmacaan Saddle: Mt Harper is down in South Canterbury, in the Rangitata area. We'll go in via the Lake Clearwater road, walking past the tranquil Lake Emma and then work our way up the reasonably steep side of Mt Harper, 1829m (can this leader find a matagouri-free route?). From Mt Harper we'll descend west through the tussock to Balmacaan Saddle (1150m) and then down Balmacaan stream to pick up a rough track and back out. In total it's a bit over 1100m of ascent and a reasonably long-moderate day for a very satisfying Show Weekend workout.</p>	<p>Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366</p> <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Nov Map: J36 Approx: \$25</p>

Sunday 18 November	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
<p>Mt Somers hut from Woolshed Creek: A Show Weekend day trip to the Mt Somers conservation area in the Canterbury foothills - Mt Somers itself, an ancient volcano, dominates the landscape. This tramp follows the Mt Somers Walkway from the Woolshed Creek carpark up through bush and then more open subalpine scrub to the new Mount Somers hut (400m - 500m of ascent), with good views of the glaciated landscape of the Stour Valley, Lake Heron and the Arrowsmiths en-route. On the way we will take a look at the old coalmine workings - coal was discovered there in 1856 and mining continued until 1954. Also in the area, but less likely to be spotted, is the rare Mt Somers weta - pretty distinctive with black and bright orange legs, white joints and antennae 12.5cm long. Come along for a great holiday weekend day trip.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 15 Nov Map: K36 Approx: \$20</p>

Weekend 24-25 November	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<p>Leadership: A course for leaders and aspiring leaders to learn the skills of running trips. Trip planning, weather monitoring, choosing suitable trip members & equipment. Assessing situations, setting priorities, making decisions and taking effective action. Evaluating and minimising risks. Using different styles of leadership for different situations. Handling challenges, conflicts & accidents. Managing people in groups with a range of abilities. Doing all that and still enjoying the trip!! A combination of classroom and outdoor training – come along and be challenged.</p>	<p>Grade: Training Closes: 15 Nov Map: TBA Approx: \$50</p>

Sunday 25 November (Early start 7 am from Church Corner)	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
<p>Mt Stuart: Mt Stuart is a less well-known peak lying slightly north-west of the Otira Viaduct. We will do a round trip including this peak by ascending the Mt Phipps ridge until reaching a point where we can descend into the little-visited upper basin of Pegleg Creek. From the saddle at the head of the creek it is a straightforward climb to the top of Mt Stuart (1906m, around 1400m - 1500m total ascent). From there we will descend the west ridge passing over Hills Peak and finally ending up near the south end of the viaduct with a bit of a road bash back to the cars. There are spectacular views looking down on the viaduct from further down the ridge. At this time of year you will need crampons and ice axe. Fitness and experience on snow are essential. Note early start - 7 am from Church Corner (NOT the Shell).</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 22 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$25</p>

Sunday 25 November	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275(and Sarah Hardie)
<p>Ryde Falls: Join Andrew, Sarah and David on this family trip in the lovely Mt Oxford Forest. We'll follow the well-benched track from the car park through the beech forest, looking out for the scattered rimu and the splashes of colour from the red and yellow-leaved horopito. There's plenty of bird life as well, from the ubiquitous robins and fan-tails to the sound of the bell-birds and maybe even a rifleman. The falls themselves - three cascades - are above a beautiful deep pool. Plenty of time to look around, explore and socialise on this family outing for everyone from kids to grandparents.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/family Closes: 22 Nov Map: L34 Approx: \$15</p>

Trip Reports

8-9 September

Snow Shelters Weekend

After playing the 'Wait and See' game with the weather for several weeks on the Intermediate Snowcraft Course, it was a great pleasure to strike beautiful weather on the first scheduled weekend for the Snow Shelters Weekend. David, Darian, Angela and myself were the advance party. Having stayed at the club hut on Friday night, we were up at Bill's Basin early in the day to utilise the well-formed wind-scoop that

had developed there, for a bit of extra Snowcraft Training. The second party, comprising Jonathan, Martin, Dee, Owen, Emma and led by Jim arrived about afternoon tea time, having left Christchurch that morning. After a short break for refreshment, the troops were keen to begin 'digging in.' The face of the large wind-scoop was chosen as a suitable site for a snow cave, shovels were produced from packs and excavation began. Four groups of two were formed to dig out four entry tunnels. One person of each pair dug out the snow at the 'working face' and the other worked in the entrance tunnel clearing the loose snow produced. Plastic rubbish bags and tarpaulins proved their worth as a way of rapidly moving loose snow. This kept everyone busy and created a rapid rate of excavation. Before long the entrance tunnels were long enough and the digging was directed sideways to meet up with adjacent diggers. A slight mismatch of levels was soon sorted out and the chamber of the cave started to take shape. Hard icy snow was struck a few metres in from the surface, so the original decision to make the cave long and shallow proved to be the way to go. Engineer Jonathan gave everyone professorial advice based on many years experience of snow cave geometry and mathematical modelling, combined with a touch of Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. This meant that it was not possible to simultaneously determine the position and momentum of each shovelful of snow as it shot out of the entrance tunnels, resulting in a few people facing up to more than they bargained for. After a short spell with a shovel, Martin decided he would rather be a camper than a snow-caver, and so retired to a nearby ridge to pitch his tent, with the benefit of solar heating until late in the day, and a marvellous view down the valley. After the setting of the sun, the temperature dropped sharply, reminding everyone that even though it was spring down on the Canterbury Plains, it was still winter up at altitude in the mountains. But digging is a vigorous activity so it was not difficult to keep warm as long as you were busy. By nightfall, quite a spacious cave had been excavated, the surplus entry tunnels had been plugged up and a sleeping platform big enough to accommodate everyone had been prepared. Stoves were lit and billies boiled to produce the evening meal. The weather was still beautifully clear so as the night arrived, a fine panoply of stars could be enjoyed overhead. Sunday dawned still brilliantly fine, and the troops were soon out and about, enjoying a breakfast in the sunshine. A second type of snow shelter was begun, this one a 'snow dome' to give everyone the experience of a different way of making a 'home on the range'. The other options of an igloo or a snow-trench were discarded as the snow was not very suitable for those kinds of shelters. It began with a pile of packs assembled on a chosen spot, and then the task began of building a snow dome on top. Loose surface snow was scooped aside as it lacked bonding ability, and the underlying firmer snow shovelled onto the ever-growing pile. Several 'trampers' or 'compactors' were assigned to tread the heap of snow down to form a strong solid mass. As the sun rose in the sky, temperatures rose in the sheltered hollow where we worked, reminding us that it was almost spring after all and that the chill of winter was passing. Layers of clothing were shed as work progressed until the scene took on an almost summery tone, with lightly clad workers toiling in the

By lunch-time quite an impressive mound have been constructed, and so it was time to start excavating the interior to recover the packs and form the living space inside. Jim did a sterling job here, persevering when others tired of their work and took time out to sit in the sun. A break-away group comprising Martin, Angela, Darian, David and Owen decided an ascent of Mt Blimit was just what they needed as a break from piling and packing snow. They soon reach the skyline ridge and followed it to the top, where they were rewarded for their efforts by uninterrupted views in all directions. Meanwhile Jonathan exercised his artistic talents to tramp out a human figure on the snow slope above us, complete with climbing/caving equipment. By late afternoon, everyone had had enough digging and shaping, so gear was packed up and the downward journey begun. The Temple Basin ski-field looking rather forlorn with its meagre patches of snow, it's rocks and grass showing through everywhere, and it's huts and rope towers silently neglected by the usual crowds of skiers, noticeable by their complete absence in this, the 'Year of Little Snow'. All in all, a successful snow shelters weekend. Bill's Basin provided an abundance of snow and outstanding views, capped off with brilliant sunshine for all who made the effort to climb to its lofty heights. Snow Shelters Team: Richard Wills (leader and scribe), Angela McCall, Darian Keane, David Rovin, Jim Western (deputy leader), Martin Brown, Jonathan Carr (tunnelling engineer), Dee Woods, Owen Crump and Emma Leddie.

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz)
by Sunday, 21 October 2007 – Thanks.